

## A Couple Of Clowns

Posted originally on the [Archive of Our Own](http://archiveofourown.org/works/52071889) at <http://archiveofourown.org/works/52071889>.

Rating:	<a href="#">Teen And Up Audiences</a>
Archive Warning:	<a href="#">No Archive Warnings Apply</a>
Category:	<a href="#">M/M</a>
Fandom:	<a href="#">One Piece (Anime &amp; Manga)</a>
Relationship:	<a href="#">Buggy/Crocodile/Dracule Mihawk</a>
Characters:	<a href="#">Buggy (One Piece)</a> , <a href="#">Dracule Mihawk</a> , <a href="#">Crocodile (One Piece)</a> , <a href="#">Shanks (mentioned)</a>
Additional Tags:	<a href="#">Modern AU</a> , <a href="#">dont ask me what that means for Buggys nose</a> , <a href="#">not a first date but a horrible one</a> , <a href="#">Established Relationship</a> , <a href="#">Bickering</a> , <a href="#">Light Angst</a> , <a href="#">just a lil</a> , <a href="#">Explicit Language</a> , <a href="#">thats why the rating is so high tbh</a> , <a href="#">circus date</a> , <a href="#">why isnt that a tag</a> , <a href="#">basically buggy tries to take his two bfs on a date to the circus and it goes horribly</a>
Language:	English
Stats:	Published: 2023-12-06 Words: 7,358 Chapters: 1/1

# A Couple Of Clowns

by [AcesCorazon](#)

## Summary

There's nothing Buggy loves more than a good trip to the circus. He remembers when he was younger how he used to go to the circus every time it came to town, either with his family or with his best friend, Shanks. And now, as an adult, every time he thinks back to those moments that he's shared with his loved ones, he can't help but feel a certain nostalgic feeling, one that embraces him like a good hug and leaves him missing his younger years. No, nothing in this world can compare to the flashiness of the circus with all its loud music and flashing lights, and its death-defying and spectacular performers and performances. He needs to go again, it's been far too long since he's last been to the circus.

Maybe that's why he suggested going there as a date for him, Mihawk, and Crocodile. In his head, he truly believes that everyone enjoys the circus, like, what's not to enjoy? There's something for everyone: singing, dancing, breathtaking stunts, and clowns. Clowns are cool!

## Notes

Someone, PLEASE tell me if something sounds weird lol. Also this is ANOTHER request (kinda sort of) that i got on Tumblr. Where op asked if i could write a fic where Cross Guild goes to the circus.

[My Tumblr](#)

There's nothing Buggy loves more than a good trip to the circus. He remembers when he was younger how he used to go to the circus every time it came to town, either with his family or with his best friend, Shanks. And now, as an adult, every time he thinks back to those moments that he's shared with his loved ones, he can't help but feel a certain nostalgic feeling, one that embraces him like a good hug and leaves him missing his younger years. No, nothing in this world can compare to the flashiness of the circus with all its loud music and flashing lights, and its death-defying and spectacular performers and performances. He needs to go again, it's been far too long since he's last been to the circus.

Maybe that's why he suggested going there as a date for him, Mihawk, and Crocodile. In his head, he truly believes that everyone enjoys the circus, like, what's not to enjoy? There's something for everyone: singing, dancing, breathtaking stunts, and clowns. Clowns are cool! And, truth be told, Buggy loves them and has an unhealthy obsession with them. He often collects clown dolls and toys even though he's damn near forty, but, hey, they're neat, okay?

Anyways, he casually, okay... He enthusiastically suggests they go to the circus over dinner one night, and the reaction he gets from his two boyfriends is honestly shocking. Crocodile instantly rolls his eyes at the idea of going to the circus as a date, "What are we? A bunch of snot-nosed brats?" He asks, whilst holding a forkful of pasta, "I don't want to go to the circus." Okay, one, he didn't even think about it. And, two, the circus isn't just for kids, it's for adults too!

Buggy looks over at Mihawk, who usually goes along with Buggy's date ideas no matter how stupid or strange they might seem, but Mihawk doesn't look too excited by the thought of going to the circus either. "Mihawk, come on, you think we should go to the circus, right?" Buggy asks, then proceeds to give his boyfriend his best puppy dog eyes, but they don't seem to work tonight.

"Circuses are... loud and really crowded..."

Okay, yes. Yes, they are loud and crowded, but it wouldn't be any fun if there were only a couple of people who went to them. Part of the fun is being surrounded by a sea of people who are all as noisy and excited as you are! It sets the tone for things and makes the

experience a whole lot better in Buggy's opinion. Who wants to go to a performance where everyone's bored? Not Buggy!

"Please, guys, can we please go to the circus? I saw a flyer at the grocery store earlier, and there's one that's going to be holding a couple of shows this weekend, can we please go? Pleaseeeee?" Buggy begs, trying to get his boyfriends to agree to go to the circus with him. He knows he could probably ask Shanks to go with him, but it honestly wouldn't be the same. He's gone to the circus with Shanks more times than he can count, and he wants to make some fun memories with his two lovers instead.

Crocodile and Mihawk seem completely against the idea of going to the circus, but after some pestering and bargaining, Buggy eventually gets them to agree to go to the circus with him, and all it takes is a promise to do the dishes and cook dinner for a week. Shit, he was willing to do a lot more than that, but they don't have to know that!

Buggy's going to the circus with the two handsomest, sweetest, funnest men in the whole wide world, and they're going to have the time of their lives and make so many fun memories. Oh, Buggy can't wait!!

...

Due to work and other boring adult shit, the only time they can manage to go to the circus is a Sunday afternoon, but Buggy couldn't be happier. He wakes up bright and early on the day of their date, knowing damn well that the show doesn't start until two in the afternoon. Still, he gets up, gets dressed, and then has breakfast, and the rest of his time is spent anxiously waiting for his lovers to get up, as well as frequently looking at the clock. God, he can't wait. He hopes there are clowns.

Noontime comes around, and at this point Buggy has so much energy building inside him that he's pacing around his, Mihawk, and Crocodile's shared apartment, now making sure the other two are getting ready to go out. He has this planned out: He knows exactly how long it'll take for them to get to the venue where the circus is, and it's thirty minutes, which means if they want to get there early and get tickets and snacks they should be out the house by, like, one. Yeah, that sounds good.

Mihawk is always ready on time, and so Buggy knows that he doesn't have to worry about him, but Crocodile... Crocodile is a different story. Buggy follows Crocodile around the house like an annoying puppy, yapping about how excited he is to go to the circus and how Crocodile needs to hurry up already. That's the thing with Crocodile though, he always wakes up late on the weekends and takes forever to get dressed, but, ugh, they don't have time for that today!

Buggy follows Crocodile into their bedroom, watching as he looks through their closet for something to wear. Honestly, for someone who claims he doesn't care about how he looks, Crocodile sure does take a long time to get ready in the morning, or, well, in this case, the afternoon. Buggy sits down on the bottom of their bed, swinging his feet over the edge, "Babe, come on, we're just going to the circus." He groans, annoyed that Crocodile's taking so long. He glances over at the clock by their bedside: 12:37 PM. It's okay, Mihawk and Buggy are already up and ready, and all they have to do is wait for Crocodile to get dressed, and then they should be ready to leave the house with plenty of time to spare.

Crocodile turns around and narrows his eyes at Buggy, looking slightly annoyed by his nagging, "I know you're excited, but chill. We have plenty of time to get there." He says, pulling out a leather jacket from their closet a moment later. Okay, but, if they want to buy snacks and find good seats, then it is crucial that they get there a little early! He watches as Crocodile gets dressed in a simple pair of black jeans and a black t-shirt, now matching the similar all-black outfits that Buggy and Mihawk are currently wearing, before he follows him out of their bedroom again.

He tries to explain everything to Crocodile and let him know how they have to get there early so they have a chance to get snacks and good seats, but Crocodile doesn't seem to care about any of that, and to add to Buggy's frustration, Crocodile wants to smoke before they leave because Mihawk won't get into the damn car if Crocodile smokes in it. It's a whole annoying thing, and he doesn't want to talk about it. Buggy just wants to stand in front of the glass door leading to their balcony and glare at Crocodile, but he can't because then Crocodile will get pissed and won't want to go to the circus anymore. So instead, he sits on the living room couch and complains to Mihawk, "I'm going to be so mad if we get there late because of him. I want to get good seats so that we'll be able to see everything."

Mihawk doesn't seem to be nearly as stressed and anxious as Buggy. He replies to him in a calm and quiet voice, "Oh, it'll be fine. We'll have plenty of time, darling." He says whilst he

leisurely reads a book. God, how can he be so relaxed right now? What if they get there too late and the tickets are all sold out? Or what if there aren't any snacks left? Or, what if they can't find a good seat?! What if they miss the opening of the show?! They need to hurry!

As soon as Buggy sees Crocodile about to come back into the apartment, Buggy jumps up from the couch, grabbing Mihawk along with him, "Okay, time to go." He announces once Crocodile is back inside, and then he grabs Crocodile's hand as well, urging his boyfriends to hurry up so they can finally leave their apartment.

He rushes them out of the apartment, down the hall and into the elevator, and then out into the parking lot where they jump into their car with Crocodile in the driver's seat. Buggy is so ready for this, he's had his phone unlocked and his GPS open for the last ten minutes, and he's ready to be the navigator for their little trip, but as soon as Buggy turns on his GPS and Crocodile hears it, he turns around and frowns, "I don't need that thing, I know where I'm going."

"Like you always do, right, darling?" Mihawk mutters from next to Crocodile in the passenger seat.

"What was that, dear?"

"Nothing."

No, no, no. No bickering today! This is a day for fun and excitement, and not a day that they should be bickering like an old married couple! "Croccy, come on, let's just use it for once." Buggy groans, now joining the conversation.

"Why? I don't need it."

Why? Why does he have to be like this any time they go out? Why is he so against using technology? It's here to help them, so why can't he just use the damn GPS for once!

Crocodile remains adamant that he doesn't need a GPS though, and in the end, despite all his whining, Buggy loses the argument and all he can do is slouch in his seat, defeated, as he looks at the clock in the car: 12:57 PM...Okay, it's fine. Crocodile might actually know where he's going for once.

Once they start driving, Buggy bounces his leg up and down nervously, staring out the window and admiring the scenery they pass by, and trying to stop himself from looking at the clock every two seconds, but it's hard, and he often looks over at it anyways, desperately hoping that they'll still have enough time before the show. There's a peaceful silence between the three of them for a few minutes as they listen to some radio station playing classic rock until Mihawk suddenly turns the music down completely. All Buggy can think at that very moment is: *Don't start, don't fucking start. I swear to god...* Because he knows what's coming next.

Crocodile instantly reaches over, turning the music back up, and Buggy knew he should have sat in the passenger seat, he knew it, but he thought that maybe, just maybe Crocodile and Mihawk wouldn't start with their nonsense, but he was wrong. "Darling...Do you mind if we turn the music down or listen to something else?" Mihawk asks in a fake nice tone.

"There's nothing wrong with my music."

"There isn't, but we always listen to what you want to listen to in the car."

"And?"

"And, I—"

Yeah, yeah, Mihawk doesn't like the same type of music Crocodile does, do they have to do this today?! Buggy takes the opportunity to butt into their conversation, knowing that if he doesn't, Crocodile and Mihawk will end up bickering over the stupidest thing ever. Who cares what kind of music they listen to?! "Guys, I'm real excited to go to the circus, aren't you?!" He asks, and he expects some kind of response, even if it is insincere, but he's met with nothing but silence. Oh, okay, wow. "Guys! It'll be fun, I promise! Me and Shanks used to go to the circus all the time when we were growing up, and we always had a blast!"

"Why didn't you ask Shanks to go then?" Crocodile mutters.

Mihawk quietly agrees, "Seriously." he sighs.

Wow, okay... just wow, that was kinda mean... Next time Buggy *will* just ask Shanks to go with him then. He thought that Mihawk and Crocodile might have a change of heart once they had some time to think about going to the circus, but obviously, that didn't happen. He kind of wants to tell Crocodile to just turn around and go back home, but he knows that'll start an argument, and Crocodile will say something like, 'No, no, we're already halfway there, so we're going to the damn circus.' and then Mihawk will probably agree with him. Whatever.

Buggy folds his arms across his chest, checking the time on the clock one more time before going back to quietly staring out the car window. 1:15 PM. Seriously, maybe he should have just asked Shanks to go with him instead, he's never had a bad time at the circus with Shanks, and Shanks never treats their trips like they are some kind of chore. Whatever. It's fine, and Buggy's not going to let Crocodile and Mihawk's crappy attitudes ruin things for him.

Buggy wanted them all to have a good time at the circus, but if Mihawk and Crocodile aren't even going to give their date a chance... then, whatever. Buggy will have fun on his own. It's fine. He doesn't care. He's not in a bad mood now. He's fine... Or at least, that's what he keeps telling himself because he seriously doesn't want to start an argument with either of his partners.



Another petty argument does end up breaking out though. Make no mistake about it, they all love each other dearly, but sometimes there are clashes in their personalities and just petty arguments between two of them or all three of them. Buggy remains quiet in the back seat, as an argument, this time about directions, breaks out between Mihawk and Crocodile. He listens as Mihawk tells Crocodile he missed his turn but doesn't say anything no matter how much he wants to because he knows there's no point arguing with Crocodile over directions. He always knows where he's going, even when he doesn't, he does.

And this is why Buggy wanted to use a GPS, but noooo, Crocodile doesn't need a GPS or anything of the sort, he knows where everything on Earth is. *1:27 PM*. Buggy sighs loudly, no he won't say anything. It's fine. He just has to trust Crocodile.

"Babe, I know where I'm going."

"You obviously don't."

"Do you want to drive?!"

"I said I would, but you didn't want me touching your seat."

*Oh, my god.* Buggy thinks, still biting his tongue. You know, Buggy wouldn't have had a problem driving if he knew that this was going to be such a big deal! He doesn't know exactly where the circus is, hence why he wanted to use his GPS, but he knows the area well enough, and if he were the one who was driving they definitely would have gotten to the circus by now, but no, Croc—...

It's fine.

The trio eventually does arrive at the circus, a hell of a lot later than Buggy would have liked them to, but they arrive at the circus regardless at exactly 1:40 PM, and now Buggy's irritation is at an all-time high as they wait in an impossibly long line to get tickets. See this is exactly what Buggy *didn't* want to happen, he didn't want to get stuck in some long line and have to rush to get snacks and then end up with the crappiest seats in the house, and he's so....

Ugh.

It's cool, it's cool. They're here now at least and they're... Well, Buggy's going to enjoy his time. He can still have a good time. His frustrations ease a little when Crocodile notices he's a little antsy and pulls him into a hug, "Are you mad at me?" He asks softly.... *A little ...* Buggy thinks, but then Crocodile gives him a soft kiss, "I love you," He whispers, and Buggy's anger melts on the spot.

"I love you too." Buggy grins, and all of a sudden he's sandwiched between two giant, handsome men who he loves more than anything in this world, all because Mihawk decides he's going to join Buggy and Crocodile's hug. How can he be mad at his boyfriends when they give such great hugs?! He can't be! As they embrace tightly, Buggy thinks that maybe, just maybe, things will be okay after all. That is... Until they get their tickets and then afterwards decide to go get some snacks.

Buggy asks both Mihawk and Crocodile if they want anything to eat, offering to pay for any goodies they might want, but both of them stick their noses in the air at any suggestions Buggy makes. They don't want peanuts, popcorn, or cotton candy, and god forbid Buggy suggests they eat a hotdog or a corn dog. It's a circus, not a gourmet restaurant, and he wants to tell Mihawk that when he scoffs at the mere suggestion of actually eating a hotdog.

Buggy isn't as picky as the other two. He loves hotdogs, they're his favorite food, actually, but he ate a lot for lunch and all he wants is some popcorn because he can smell it in the air. God, he loves the smell of freshly popped popcorn. He makes the horrible mistake of telling Crocodile that he wants it, but of course, when they go to get some, there's none left... which causes a rather painfully embarrassing altercation between Crocodile and the poor man who's selling popcorn.

"All out? How the hell can you be all out of popcorn already?! Huh? You bullshitting me?" Crocodile asks the employee, clicking his tongue. And this isn't what Buggy needs right now, the last thing he needs is for Crocodile to start a fight with someone and get them thrown out, or worse have the cops called on them because who wouldn't be terrified of a screaming man who's over eight feet tall?

Buggy buries his face in Mihawk's shoulder, wanting to just disappear on the spot because now people are starting to look at them. Crocodile doesn't care if he's making a scene though, he complains loudly to the poor guy who's just trying to do his job, insisting that he has more popcorn somewhere and that he needs to make it. You know what? Buggy doesn't even want popcorn anymore, he just wants Crocodile to stop making a big deal over something so small. "Babe," Buggy whines, "It's fine, I'll just get something el—"

"No, we're getting that popcorn."

God, why is he like this?!

Crocodile is dead set on getting Buggy what he wants though, unfortunately, and seven minutes later, Buggy has a paper bag filled with popcorn in his hands... And he feels downright ashamed that Crocodile forced some poor underpaid circus employee to make more popcorn for them even after they wanted to stop selling it. Mihawk seems equally annoyed and embarrassed, "I can't believe you," He hisses as they wait in line for some drinks, "Why do you always have to make a scene?"

“Buggy wanted popcorn, so I made sure he got it.”

“We could have gotten something else, you didn’t have to embarrass us like that.”

“Whatever.”

“No, it’s not whate—”

Buggy wants to cry. This isn’t how things are supposed to go. They were supposed to get a bunch of delicious snacks and then they were supposed to go inside and find the best seats in the entire circus. They were supposed to be having the best time of their lives, not fighting and stirring up drama. “Do you two have to fight?” Buggy asks with a groan, to which his two boyfriends look at him confused, clearly not believing they’re in the middle of an argument when they are.

“Who’s fighting?” Mihawk and Crocodile ask at the same time. Whatever. If they say they’re not fighting, then they aren’t fighting. Buggy breaks away from the group after he gets a drink, honestly needing a little breathing room from his boyfriends. This is supposed to be a date, but they’re treating it like it’s just another Sunday afternoon... Buggy sighs, finally making his way to where the show is at with his two boyfriends closely behind him.

*So much for getting good seats*, Buggy thinks bitterly, but at this point, he didn’t expect to get front-row seats or even anything remotely close to the show, but he’s still a little disappointed. The arena is packed with chattering people who are all having a way better time than Buggy is right now, all of whom are laughing and enjoying their snacks or playing with their light-up wands. Buggy envies those groups of friends and family and can’t help but think that’s exactly how he and his two boyfriends should be right now: laughing and having a good time as they wait for the show to start. The three of them end up finding seats at the very back of the arena, and Buggy can hardly see from where their seats are, but he doesn’t care anymore, he just wants the show to start.

Buggy had to go through a painful situation just to get his popcorn, only for Crocodile, who's sitting in between him and Mihawk, to take his snack away before the show can even start, and Buggy glares at him because he distinctly remembers Crocodile complaining that the circus didn't have any good foods and how he didn't want anything, but of course, now he wants Buggy's popcorn— It's fine. They're boyfriends, they share everything anyways...Buggy just wishes that Crocodile would've gotten his own bag of popcorn after the scene he caused.

Mihawk's not better though, he also complained about the circus' food, only to notice Crocodile eating popcorn and take a handful himself. Buggy can't help but roll his eyes, but he doesn't say anything because just as he's about to remind both his boyfriends that they didn't want anything to snack on, the lights in the tent go off all of a sudden and the crowd surrounding them starts to grow excited and rowdy.

In an instant, Buggy's frustrations are once again swept under the rug as he sees beautiful dancers in matching black and red outfits come out and begin performing a choreographed dance to the sound of thunderous, upbeat music. *So pretty!* Buggy thinks as he admires the performers' outfits. He's mesmerized by the way the dancers move across the stage, ooh-ing and ahh-ing at their every little move, but Crocodile and Mihawk don't seem to be as entertained, "This is cute and all, but when do the lions and shit come out?" Crocodile asks as he shoves another handful of popcorn in his mouth.

Mihawk responds a minute later, "I don't think they have animals, love."

"How fucking lame," Crocodile frowns, "When I was a kid the circus had all sorts of cool animals."

Dear god, he sounds like an old man right now... Buggy just wants to reach over and smack him... It's fine. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, and just because Crocodile's opinion is an annoying one doesn't mean that Buggy should get mad at him for it. So, instead, he just focuses on the dancers, enjoying their little show and applauding for them afterwards.

After the dancers finish their performance, the ringmaster announces the next act and performer, and then out comes a woman in a dazzling silver bodysuit who makes her way onto a high platform before getting onto a trapeze swing. This too is another one of Buggy's favorite parts of the circus, he loves to see trapeze artists perform elegant and dangerous stunts while up in the air, and he watches with bated breath as the beautifully dressed woman performs, wishing that he had a better seat to see the whole performance at this very moment, especially once she starts doing more elaborate tricks whilst swinging in the air.

Buggy enjoys the opening act a lot, but it's a one-woman show, and he kinda hopes that maybe later on in the circus there will be more trapeze acts that will involve more than one performer. He just loves acts that involve two performers swinging in the air together on one swing or leaping into each other's arms and swinging. And every time he sees acts like that, despite having a horrible fear of heights, he can't help but think: Hey, that looks fun. However, he'd probably have a full-blown panic attack if he were in the trapeze artist's shoes and had to leap into someone's grasp whilst swinging high up in the air.

It's during said amazing trapeze performance that he reaches over to grab some popcorn, only to realize that his two boyfriends have eaten it all. "Ugh, seriously?" Buggy mutters under his breath, he didn't get more than three pieces... He's used to being the one who steals food, so having the tables suddenly turned on him is annoying, to say the least. This wouldn't have happened if Crocodile and Mihawk just got their own popcorn, but nooo.

It's not even halfway through the show when Buggy suddenly hears the sounds of soft snoring coming from beside him, and he swears if Crocodile actually fell asleep... Buggy glances at him from the corner of his eye, and sure enough, Crocodile has both his arms crossed and his head tilted back, snoring as he sleeps through the show. *How can he sleep through the sounds of cheering people and loud music?!* Buggy wonders as he leans over Crocodile, "I can't believe him," He groans, complaining to Mihawk, "He really fell asleep."

"I know," Mihawk mutters, frowning, "I can't believe him either." He attempts to wake Crocodile up after that, but all attempts are futile, and in the end, he just clicks his tongue in frustration, "I swear he has absolutely no manners." He doesn't, that much is very clear.

Despite being pissed off about Crocodile falling asleep during their date, Buggy tries to enjoy the performances that the circus puts on, enjoying the daredevil stunts the most, like when the tightrope walkers walk across the tightrope and perform various acts or jump over each other. He finds it all so amazing, but when he turns to Mihawk and asks him what he thinks, Mihawk has a blank look on his face. “Don’t they have something better they can do?” What is that supposed to mean? Is it not enough that they’re high up in the air performing dangerous stunts with ease? What exactly does he want them to do? They’ve already jump-ropeed while on the tightrope and even rode a bicycle across it, what more could Mihawk possibly want from the performers?

Buggy honestly doesn’t know why he bothers talking to Mihawk about things, he just critiques everything...

Another stunt that Buggy’s always liked is the globe of death, and he watches with great excitement as the circus employees bring a giant circular steel cage out and onto the stage. The ringmaster introduces the performers after that and then three men on dirt bikes proceed to come out before getting into the cage and riding around as part of the act. He loves it, and so do the people around him because they all cheer as the men perform their stunts. And for a split second, Buggy thinks that maybe, just maybe this is the one performance that Mihawk will actually enjoy, but after the performance, Mihawk raises an eyebrow and looks at Buggy, “That’s all? They just ride around in circles?” Well... yeah, but...

“Yeah, but isn’t it cool?!” Buggy asks, hoping Mihawk will stop being so uptight and enjoy the show finally. Even though they just rode around in circles more or less, it was still really cool, and Buggy kinda wishes he had a dirt bike now.

“I guess so.”

Buggy sighs. Whatever, Buggy thought the act was cool even if he’s seen it a bunch of times before, and he’ll leave it at that. His second favorite stunt happens after the globe of death, and just so happens to be another act that has the word ‘death’ in it. The wheel of death: Two metal wheels attached to each other, continuously rotating as a performer does tricks whilst inside one of the wheels or on top of them. He loves this act, he especially loves it when the performer gets on top of the wheel and stands there for a moment, basking in cheers and

applause. No matter how many times he sees this act performed he can't help but admire its flashiness.

The acrobat they're watching finally climbs outside the giant wheel and jumps on top of it, running along and doing various tricks as the wheel rotates, and Buggy grows noisy, now fully excited as he watches the show intently, holding his breath every time it looks like the performer is about to fall. He thinks this is all part of the show because every circus he's ever been to always has moments where the performers act like they're about to fall to their deaths, only to regain their footing and continue to perform effortlessly. It still doesn't make things any less exciting yet terrifying at the same time though.

As soon as the performer pulls out a jump rope, Buggy can't help but stand in his seat, trying to get a better view of the action as the acrobat begins to jump rope on top of the giant rotating wheel, and Buggy's seen this more times than he can even count, but he's still so amazed every time he sees it happen before his eyes. God, he admires just how brave and talented these performers truly are, Buggy wishes he had just a fraction of the courage, showmanship, and talent that they have. He wishes that he were the one surrounded by hundreds of admiring people and doing what he loves instead of living such a normal, boring life.

Buggy sits back down once the performance is over and turns to Mihawk again, "Wasn't that amazing, dear?!" he asks, and his eyes are still bright with admiration and excitement, "That's one of my favorite acts!" He states with a small smile.

"Oh, yeah..." Mihawk replies in a flat voice, and then a moment later he scoffs again, "I'm starting to think that this was a waste of money..." he mutters, and Buggy is pretty sure he wasn't supposed to hear that last part, but he does and it breaks his heart.

For some reason, that comment was the last straw for Buggy. He completely loses interest in the circus after that, not caring what comes next. At this point, he just wants to just go home. There are a couple of more dance performances, a man who juggles, a unicyclist, a girl who does a cool little performance with a hula-hoop, more acrobats, and then some more action with dirt bikes, but none of that can cheer Buggy up.



Once the show concludes, the arena erupts into thunderous applause, finally waking Crocodile up, and Buggy's just done with this entire date. He stands up from his seat, ignoring how a dazed Crocodile asks if he missed anything. Oh, he didn't miss anything, just the entire fucking show.

This date sucked. He didn't even get to see a single clown, either.

The three of them make it back out to their car, with Buggy uncharacteristically quiet as he climbs into the back seat. He knew they didn't want to go, but ... He just thought that maybe, just maybe things would have gone better than they did. He watches as Mihawk and Crocodile join him in the car, and as soon as Mihawk has his seat belt on, he starts filling Crocodile in on what he missed, not painting a good impression of the circus. "It was boring. It was so repetitive, and half of it was just dancing."

Even if the circus had a lot of dancing, Buggy still thought that the dances were exciting and fun. He doesn't know what's wrong with having a lot of dance acts, the dancers were talented and elegant, and... Whatever.

The entire ride home consists of Mihawk's critiques of the circus, and Crocodile nodding in response, stating that he's so glad that he fell asleep and how things used to be so much more exciting at the circus when he was a boy.

Buggy does his best to block them out and ends up texting Shanks, letting his best friend know just how horrible his circus date went. Almost instantly Shanks texts him back, and once he sees his response he sighs, finally realizing just how awful this whole idea was:

*'Aw, man... Why didn't you invite me? I love the circus :('*

Buggy really should have just invited Shanks to come with him to the circus instead of making this a date with his boyfriends. He was a fool for thinking that Crocodile and Mihawk would change their mind, and the more that time passes by, the more he grows frustrated with both his partners. It doesn't seem fair, Buggy often goes to places that Mihawk or Crocodile want to go to for dates and doesn't complain even if it's not exactly his idea of fun or romantic, so why did they have to be so rude today?

Whatever.

By the time they get home, it's almost time for dinner, and Buggy just wants to get that over with too, and go to bed. He quietly starts making dinner on his own, ignoring Mihawk when he asks him what he's going to make and offers to give him a helping hand. "Are you mad again?" Mihawk asks after it's clear that Buggy isn't going to answer him.

"No, I'm fine."

"Buggy, don't be childish. What's wrong?"

"I said I'm fine."

Mihawk simply sighs in response, leaving Buggy alone in the kitchen for a brief second before reappearing with Crocodile. God, now they're going to make this into a big deal when Buggy just wants to be left alone. "Hey, baby," Crocodile calls out, and right away Buggy can't help but think: *Don't act all cute now, dickhead.*

"What's wrong?" Crocodile asks, leaning against the counter as Buggy cuts onions for their meal. Why can't Buggy just be mad for a little while? Why does he have to talk about his feelings right away? He doesn't want to talk, he just wants to eat dinner and go to bed. "Did you have a bad time at the circus?"

Did he have a bad time at the circus?! How can someone be so...So oblivious?! Of course, Buggy had a bad time at the circus. Crocodile and Mihawk started bickering before they even reached the venue, and then Crocodile fought some poor employee. And if those things weren't bad enough, Crocodile fell asleep before anything exciting could happen, and all Mihawk did was complain and ruin almost every act. Everything was just terrible...

Whatever, he's fine. He doesn't care. He's over it.

"I'm fine." Buggy insists again, this time to Crocodile, who obviously doesn't believe him.

"Hey, if you're mad, let's talk things out."

Mihawk jumps in, sighing, "I agree, if you have something that's bothering you, let's talk about it like adults."

"I said I'm fine, can you guys just give me some damn space?!" Buggy snaps, finally having enough of their pestering. Mihawk and Crocodile exchange looks before finally giving Buggy the space he so desperately wants and in the process giving him time to think about their failure of a date. His anger and frustrations just seem to grow, and Buggy angrily moves around the kitchen, slamming cabinet and drawer doors frequently, childishly trying to take his anger out on something.

Now, Buggy enjoys cooking, especially for his two boyfriends, but today he seems less than enthusiastic about cooking their meal, and out of spite, decides to pull some frozen hot dogs out of the freezer and cook them, knowing damn well that Crocodile and Mihawk will hate dinner with a passion. Oh, well, they wanted him to make dinner for a week, right? That was their agreement, right? They said they'd go to the circus if Buggy made dinner and washed dishes for a week, right?!

Okay, he hopes they like eating hot dogs.

Once dinner is ready, They all sit around the table, awkwardly. Mihawk and Crocodile don't seem to enjoy tonight's meal, which is funny because do you know what Buggy didn't enjoy? His fucking trip to the circus.

Anyways, that doesn't matter because Buggy was over that ages ago.

It's not like Crocodile and Mihawk don't try and converse with Buggy, because they do, but Buggy just gives them simple one-worded replies to anything they ask, clearly not caring how uncomfortable things are getting until finally going, "I just think it's funny how you guys couldn't at least try to enjoy the circus. I mean I go to places that I don't want to go to sometimes for you guys, like, why couldn't you try to have a good time?"

Crocodile, who is still in the middle of trying to finish off a single hotdog, looks up at Buggy all of a sudden, "Oh, that's what this is about..."

"Yeah it is, and you know what? I'm so sick of eating Italian food and going to the same boring restaurant every damn weekend, but I never complain about it because I know that it's something that you enjoy."

"What's wrong with Italian food...?" Crocodile asks. Okay, is he missing the point on purpose?! The point isn't that Buggy hates Italian food, the point is he does things for Crocodile because he knows that it'll make Crocodile happy.

"Nothing, I'm just saying you take us to the same boring, old restaurant every weekend, and I try to enjoy it even though I'm tired of it because I know it makes you happy." Buggy states

bluntly, to the shock and horror of Crocodile, who probably only heard the words ‘Boring, old restaurant’.

Mihawk groans, pinching the bridge of his nose, and it’s almost comical that he seems to be annoyed over the fact that Buggy’s airing his grievances especially since Mihawk spent their whole circus trip complaining, “Okay, okay, I will admit that we were rather—”

Buggy cuts Mihawk off before he can even get his sentence out though, “And while I’m at it, I’ll just say it. I don’t like going to see those musicals Mihawk’s so into, but I at least try to enjoy them. I don’t sit through the entire show and complain or fall asleep!” Buggy sighs, shaking his head, “Whatever, it doesn’t matter. I thought you two would have a really good time, but i was wrong. I was wrong for dragging you to the circus in the first place.” Buggy says, now getting up from his seat and putting his plate in he sink. He doesn’t even feel like doing dishes, he’ll just do them in the morning or something. “You guys were right, I should have just brought Shanks with me instead!”

He leaves a speechless Crocodile and Mihawk at the dinner table and goes to their shared room after that, climbing into their king-sized bed and lying down before finding something to watch on TV to drift off to. However, of course, he can’t fall asleep now because he’s pissed and can’t stop thinking about the horrible date he went on. And he’s so annoyed at everything, including himself for not being able to put things behind him like he says he has.

A few hours later, Mihawk enters the room, “Hey, love,” He calls out in a gentle voice, climbing into bed with Buggy, “I’m sorry. I didn’t give the circus a chance. I was cynical about everything from the start and didn’t even try to have a good time, and I didn’t realize I was making you upset.”

“I just wanted us to have a good time, that’s all...” Buggy replies in a hushed voice.

“I know you did, I’m sorry. The circus just really isn’t my sort of thing, but I didn’t have to be that negative about it.”

“No, it’s my fault. You guys didn’t even want to go in the first place, but I made you go... so I should have expected something like this... I should have just brought Shanks with me instead.”

Buggy tells Mihawk as he sits up and bed.

“No, no. We love you and we want to do things together with you, and we should have realized that you were just trying to have some fun with us a lot sooner.” Mihawk says, giving him a quick kiss against his temple, “Can you come out into the living room for a second?” He asks softly, and Buggy sighs, nodding. He's tired of arguing and talking, but he just knows that he’s probably going to end up having to talk things out with his boyfriends anyways, so he might as well get it all over with and kiss and makeup before bedtime. “Thank you,” Mihawk says, smiling before he gives Buggy a quick kiss on the lips and pulls him out of bed with him

As soon as he leaves their bedroom his nose is hit with the scent of buttery popcorn, and he finds Crocodile in the living room, sitting on the couch with a giant bowl on his lap. He turns his head as Buggy approaches him, giving him a small smile, “Hey, baby,” He greets and then pats the spot next to him, and Buggy sighs again but still has a seat on the couch next to his boyfriend, accepting another gentle kiss, this time from Crocodile. “Sorry for being a dick,” He apologizes and afterwards gives Buggy a sheepish grin, “I didn’t mean to be a big jerk and fall asleep during the show,” He whispers, and Buggy sighs but ends up apologizing again too, “No, I shouldn’t have made you guys go in the first place.”

“Hey, if you can handle going to the same Italian restaurant every week, then I think I can handle going to the circus just once.”

“I Agree,” Mihawk says. He turns off the lights in the living room, leaving the tv to illuminate the small room with a bright white light, before joining the other two on the couch. “We know our little date went horrible earlier, but how about we give it another shot?” He asks. Oh, but this was their last chance to see the circus, it was only going to be in town for three days... and he tells Mihawk that, but Mihawk smiles.

“If we can’t go to the circus, we’ll bring it to us.”

Buggy tilts his head at Mihawk in confusion, watching as his boyfriend picks up the remote control to the TV before opening up YouTube and looking up circus videos for the three of them to watch. Maybe such a small act of kindness shouldn’t move Buggy, but it does. He melts on the spot as soon as he realizes what Mihawk and Crocodile have planned for him, and he quickly hugs both of them and gives them both a big wet kiss on the cheek, “I love you both so much!” He exclaims, and it’s like in a moment all the day's frustrations are forgotten and replaced by Buggy’s earlier happiness and excitement.

So maybe their original trip to the circus didn’t go so well, but in his opinion, snuggling on the couch with his two amazing boyfriends as they watch YouTube videos is a hundred times better anyways!

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